

Newsletter

Issue 30, December 2016



Introductory words by Prof. Dr. Danuta Maria HÜBNER

Dear Readers,

I am very happy to present the 30th issue of the AFCO Newsletter, a tool prepared by the Secretariat which aims at informing you about AFCO activities and at increasing awareness on institutional challenges that the EU is facing.

At our extraordinary meeting on Thursday 8 December, which will take place in the morning, AFCO will vote on two important and topical reports: "Improving the functioning of the European Union building on the potential of the Lisbon Treaty" and "Possible evolutions of and adjustments to the current institutional set-up of the European Union".

Prof. Dr. Danuta Maria HÜBNER, Chair

Meeting languages available

FR,DE,IT,NL,EN,EL,ES,PT,CS,PL,RO

Meeting Documents

In light of the European Parliament's paperless project please bear in mind that only a very limited number of paper dossiers will be available in the meeting room.

Instead, meeting documents will be made available on the following public and internal websites:

<http://www.emeeeting.europarl.europa.eu/committees/archives/201512/AFCO>

and (EP internal only):

<http://www.emeeeting.ep.parl.union.eu/committee/>



MEETING DATE AND VENUE

Thursday 08.12.2016 in BRUSSELS,
09:00-12:30

Room: Paul-Henri Spaak (4B001)

Please find below the link to the latest committee draft agenda:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/a-fco/draft-agendas.html>

Improving the functioning of the European Union building on the potential of the Lisbon Treaty



Rapporteurs: Mercedes Bresso (S&D) and Elmar Brok (EPP-DE)

The draft report and the 888 amendments tabled will be voted during this meeting. The rapporteur is presenting about 60 draft compromise proposals covering the great majority of paragraphs.

In their draft report the rapporteurs are examining the yet unused possibilities offered by the Lisbon Treaty to tackle the challenges that the Union is currently facing, by adapting its institutional structure, enhancing its democratic accountability, deepening the Economic and

Monetary Union, completing the internal market and furthering joint efforts in the fields of External Action and Justice and Home Affairs.

Calendar proposed:

Plenary vote: February 2017

Shadow Rapporteurs: Kazimierz Mikołaj Ujazdowski (ECR); Charles Goerens (ALDE); Barbara Spinelli (GUE/NGL); Sven Giegold (Greens/ EFA); Fabio Massimo Castaldo (EFDD); Gerolf Annemans (ENF).

Possible evolutions of and adjustments to the current institutional set-up of the European Union



Rapporteur: Guy Verhofstadt (ALDE - BE)

The draft report was presented during the AFCO meeting of 12 July 2016. Afterwards, some thousand amendments were tabled. Almost ninety compromise amendments were then presented by the rapporteur. The vote will take place during this meeting.

The draft report by Guy Verhofstadt focuses on the following issues for reform of the Treaties:

*Ending "Europe a la carte" ("variable geometry", type of "associate status");

*The withdrawal of the UK from the European Union;

*New Economic governance (convergence code, fiscal capacity, debt instrument, Fiscal compact, ESM treasury facility, EU Finance Minister, ECB, ECJ);

*New challenges (energy, migration, terrorism);

*Strengthening Foreign Policy (EU Foreign Minister, ECJ - CFSP, European Defence Union);

*More democracy, transparency and accountability (Commission size, VPs, top candidates, European party lists, reallocation of seats, Council of the States, special Law Council, composition of Council configurations, Eurogroup, Eurozone arrangements, national parliaments, legislative initiative, EU budget and budget control, Right of Inquiry, and treaty ratification procedure);

*Constituent process (treaty amendment, convention).

Calendar proposed:

Plenary vote: February 2017

Shadow Rapporteurs: Paulo Rangel (EPP); Jo Leinen (S&D); Ashley Fox (replacing Mr Messerschmidt) (ECR); Barbara Spinelli GUE/NGL; Pascal Durand (Greens/ EFA); Fabio Massimo Castaldo (EFDD); Gerolf Annemans (ENF).

Next Meeting

- 30 January 2017, 15.00 – 18.30 (Brussels)

- 31 January 2017, 9.00 – 12.30 (Brussels)

*

*

*

Further information

For any further information, please visit the AFCO committee website:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/afco/home.html>

Twitter Activities of the AFCO committee may be followed on twitter @EPIInstitutional.

Contact the editor

European Parliament, Directorate General for Internal Policies of the Union, Secretariat of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs.

Tel: + 32 2 28 43676 – e-mail: afco-secretariat@ep.europa.eu

Legal disclaimer

The items contained herein are drafted by the Secretariat of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs and are provided for general information purposes only. The opinions expressed in this document are the sole responsibility of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position of the European Parliament. The AFCO Newsletter may contain links to websites that are created and maintained by other organisations. The AFCO Secretariat does not necessarily endorse the views expressed on these websites.